

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 MC-02 ACDA-07 IGA-02 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /067 W
-----120500Z 011809 /21

R 111844Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5591
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
DOD WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02675

DOD PLEASE PASS ISA AND DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, MILI, PO, GW
SUBJECT: M48A5 TANKS FOR PORTUGAL

REF: STATE 030228 DTG 100155Z FEB 77

1. I TOOK THE OCCASION OF MY FEB. 11 MEETING WITH
MINISTER LEBER TO REENFORCE THE EARLIER EMBASSY
DEMARCHE CONCERNING PROVISION OF M48A5 TANKS TO
PORTUGAL. IN SO DOING, I NOTED THAT THE U.S. HOPED THAT
THE FRG WOULD BEAR THE ENTIRE COST OF UPGRADING THE
M48A2 VERSION TO AN M48A5. MINISTER LEBER DID NOT
RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE QUESTION OF WHO WOULD PAY FOR
SUCH AN UPGRADING, BUT DID SAY THAT THE FRG CONSIDERED
THAT THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY'S MAJOR NEED WAS IN
TRAINING RATHER THAN EQUIPMENT. HE NOTED THAT FINE
EQUIPMENT WAS OF NO USE WITHOUT PROPERLY TRAINED PER-
SONNEL TO USE IT. THE MINISTER ALSO REITERATED THE FRG
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POSITION THAT IT HAD NO SURPLUS M48A2 TANKS. ALL SUCH
EQUIPMENT WAS TO BE UPGUNNED AND KEPT IN THE INVENTORY
OF THE FEDERAL ARMED FORCES.

2. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS LONG BEEN SKEPTICAL OF
THE NEED TO PROVIDE THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES WITH
LARGE AMOUNTS OF MODERN EQUIPMENT, FEELING

THAT ITS MAIN PROBLEMS LIE ELSEWHERE. NEVERTHELESS, THE FRG IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE 17 M48A2 TANKS AND 18 105MM TOWED HOWITZERS WITH ITS TOWING VEHICLES. THE FRG IS ALSO PREPARED TO PROVIDE TRAINING. IN THIS CONNECTION, A DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL RECENTLY ASKED US ABOUT U.S. PLANS TO TRAIN THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES IN THE EQUIPMENT WE WOULD BE PROVIDING. SPECIFICALLY, HE WANTED TO KNOW IF WE WERE GOING TO PROVIDE SUCH TRAINING BY MEANS OF A MAAG-TYPE ORGANIZATION, BY TRAINING IN THE U.S., OR BY A MIXTURE OF THE TWO.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF OUR TRAINING PLANS SO THAT WE CAN PASS THEM TO APPROPRIATE FMOD OFFICIALS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: MASS, MPOL, MILI, PO, GE
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